

640-102
EAF:JMS

10/018659
JC Rec'd PCT/PTO 21 DEC 2001

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)
Christer ÅSLUND)
Serial No.: 10/018659)
Filed: Herewith 12.21.01)

Examiner: Jenkins

Group Art Unit: 1742

For: **A METHOD FOR SINTERING A CARBON STEEL PART USING A HYDROCOLLOID BINDER AS CARBON SOURCE**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,
please make the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claims 3-6 as follows:

3 [Amended] A method according to claim 1, characterised in
that the agglomerated powder in addition comprises fine-grained
graphite powder.

4 [Amended] A method according to claim 1, characterised in
that the heating at 450-650°C takes place under a protective
atmosphere to prevent oxidation.

5 [Amended] A method according to claim 1, characterised
in that the heating at 450-650°C takes place under an atmosphere
which allows part of the carbon to be removed.